

Theme 3: Quality of Life and Societal Behaviour

Group 3b: Social Relations

SUMMARY AND CONSLUSION

Presenters and papers:

1. **David CHAN**, Singapore Management University, Singapore
Conceptualizing and Assessing Social Relation
2. **Wenmeng FENG**, China Development Research Foundation
Measuring Well-being from the Perspective of Social Relations: Reflections and Proposal based on China's Recent Social Change
3. **Takayoshi KUSAGO**, Kansai University
Some issues in use of social relations for well-being assessment

Summary of Presentation (1)

- **Focus: Social Relations as component of well-being/happiness/ Life satisfaction**
- Sharing findings of assessments
 - Theoretical background of Social Relation
 - 8 provinces in China
 - ‘Beautiful Hyogo’, Happiness and social relations (a village in Niigata)
- **National Accounts of Wellbeing: subjective, subjective**
- **Life satisfaction of Chinese Residents (%)**
Strongly satisfied (12.8); Satisfied (34.2); Moderate (41.4); Dissatisfied (8.5); Strongly dissatisfied (2.8); unclear (0.3)
- **Important aspects of Life Satisfaction:**
(1) family harmony, (2) health, (3) children education, (4) life safety, (5) medical service, (6) family economic conditions, (7) environment quality, (8) respect, (9) social insurance, (10) living conditions, (11) work, (12) prices, (13) public facilities, (14) traffic, (15) judiciary, (16) income equality and social justice, (17) social contact, (18) government administration, (19) participation of social management
- **Importance Score:** 93.6 (family harmony) to 73.2 (participation of social management)

Summary of Presentation (2)

- **Element of good life:**

(1) health (2) money, (3) time use, (4) job, (5) human relationship, (6) helping others, (7) freedom, (8) accomplishment, (9) hobby, (10) way of thinking, (11) marriage life, (12) politics, (13) others

- **Element of happiness:**

(1) income, (2) job status, (3) health, (4) leisure, (5) work and hobby and social contribution, (6) family relations, (7) friendship, (8) human relation at job places, (9) relation at community

- **Other findings in China social changes:**

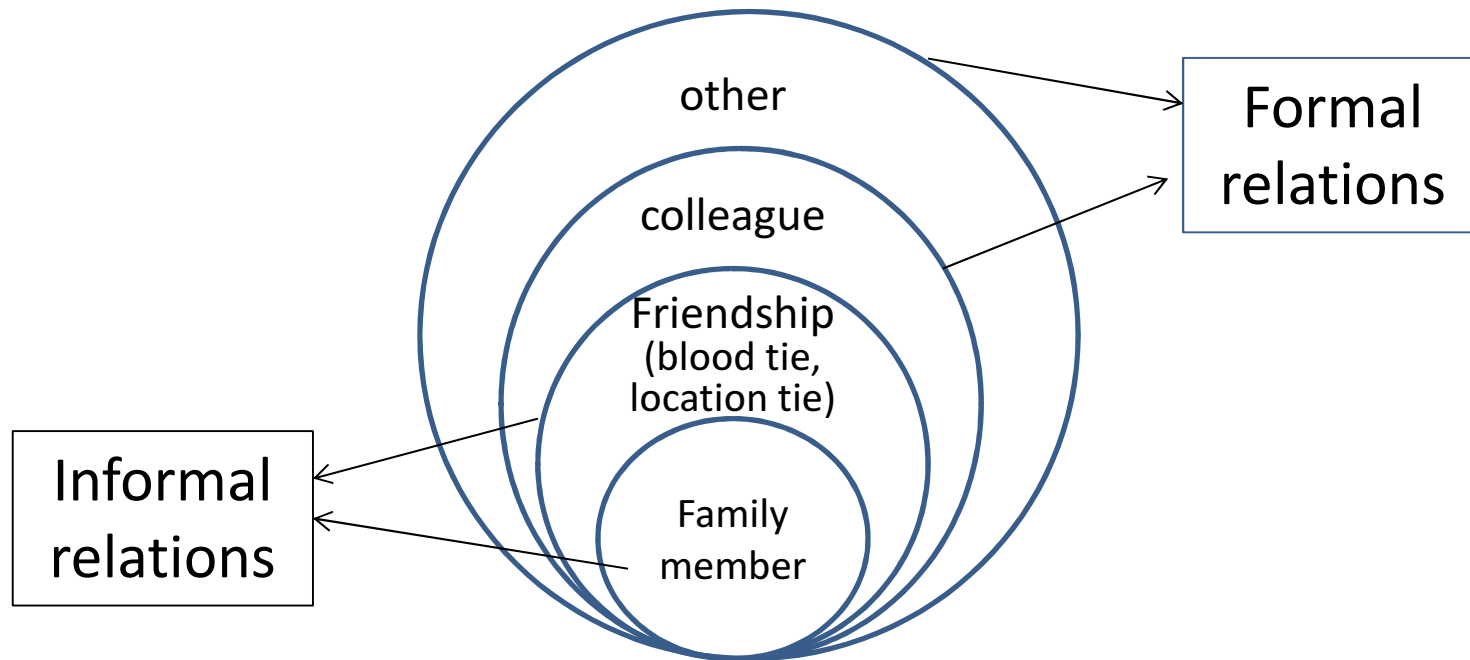
- Shrinking family size (4.3 in 1953 => 3.1 in 2010)
- Aging population
- Rapid urbanization and enormous domestic migrant
- Weakening informal relations
- ICT impact: mobile users: 952 million, 485 million internet users, blog users 63.1 million (Dec 2010) => 195 million (June 2011)

- **Happiness and social relation in a village in Niigata**

- Social relations is a good proxy to grasp community revival
- Average happiness score: National 6,5 point, Village = 7.1

CONCLUSIONS (1)

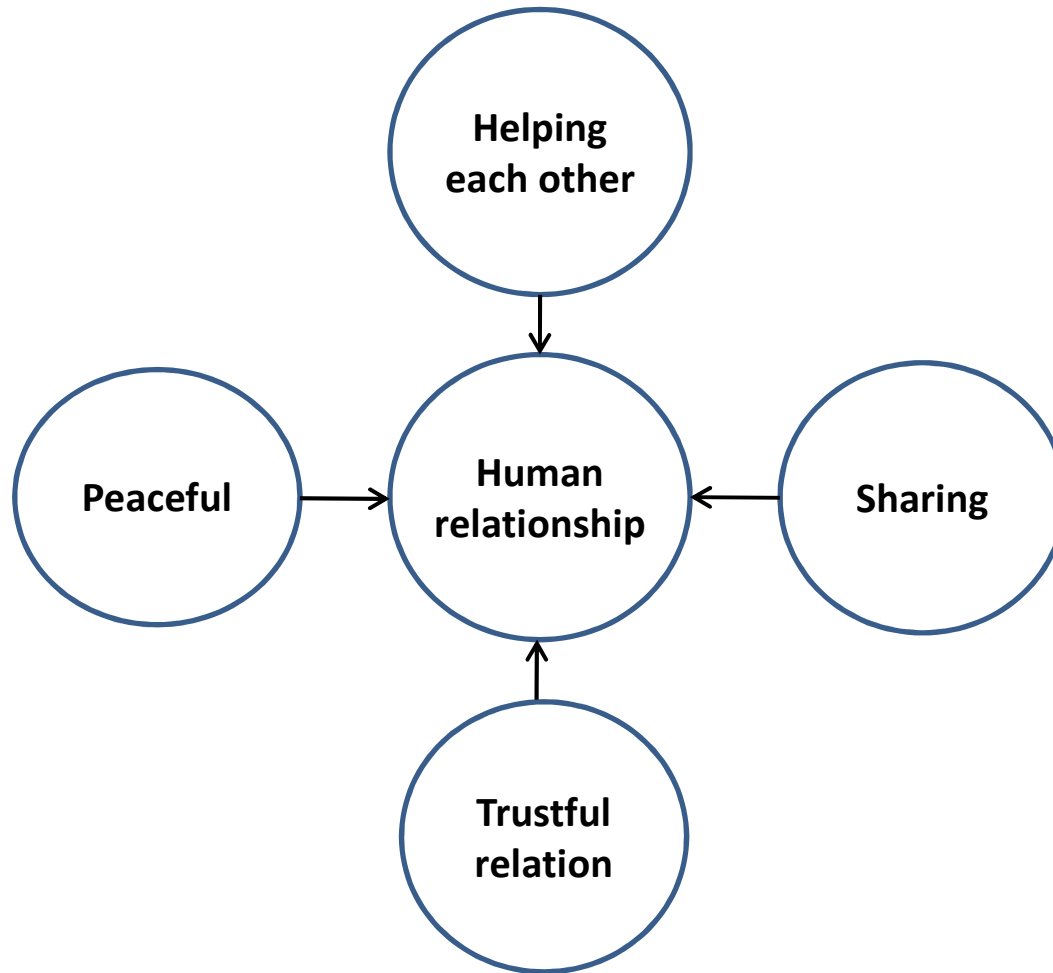
Important role of Informal relation in Chinese people life



Family member relation is the core of social relation

CONCLUSIONS (2)

4 types of human relationships (local life feeling survey)



CONCLUSIONS (3)

- Global measures of social relation useful but domain-specific measures and segmented approach most informative
- Social relations are important as ends in itself and means to other positive ends
- Evidence-based intervention to Social relations can be effective at individual, dyad, group, organizational and national level
- Importance of social relations for people well-being
- Roles and importance of social relation is context specific
- Social relations data could be used to trace change of community cohesion after man-made/natural crises
- How to define friends in the future (cyber-friends?)
- Potential influences of ICT to social relation and well-being
- Changing roles within social relations: weakening of informal relations => the need to establish formal relation in society